

IN THE CLAIMS

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) Connecting sleeve ( $M$ ) for a bus bar connection ( $SK$ ) that is used to connect two switchboard sections ( $F1, F2$ ) of a gas-insulated switchboard system, in which the connecting sleeve ( $M$ ) is a-an insulating, elastic material ( $I$ ) that is in the form of a tube, characterized in that the connecting sleeve ( $M$ ) has an outer, electrically conductive surface ( $OA$ ) that is grounded, and an inner, electrically conductive surface ( $OI$ ) to which the voltage potential of the bus bar ( $S$ ) is applied; and in that the connecting sleeve ( $M$ ) has a coupling electrode ( $KE$ ) that is imbedded in the insulating material ( $I$ ).
2. (Currently Amended) Connecting sleeve ( $M$ ) as defined in Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the coupling electrode ( $KE$ ) has a sensor surface that is tangential to the outer surface ( $OA$ ).
3. (Currently Amended) Connecting sleeve as defined in Claim 1 or ~~Claim 2~~, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the coupling electrode ( $KE$ ) is so imbedded in the insulating material ( $I$ ) that the coupling electrode ( $KE$ ) is electrically insulated from the inner surface ( $OI$ ) and from the outer surface ( $OA$ ), the coupling electrode ( $KE$ ) having an edge area ( $R$ ) that overlaps the outer surface ( $OA$ ), at least in part.

4. (Currently Amended) Connecting sleeve ( $M$ ) as defined in Claim 1, characterized in thatwherein the coupling electrode ( $KE$ ) is connected to a plug connector ( $S1$ ) that is positioned in an opening ( $A$ ) that is surrounded by the insulating material ( $I$ ).
5. (Currently Amended) Connecting sleeve ( $M$ ) as defined in Claim 4, characterized in thatwherein the plug connector ( $S1$ ) can be connected to a mating element ( $S2$ ); and in that the opening ( $A$ ) is matched to the outer shape of this counter element ( $S2$ ) so as to form a dust-proof plug-type connection.
6. (Currently Amended) Bus bar connection ( $SK$ ) with a connecting sleeve ( $M$ ) to connect two switchboard sections ( $F1, F2$ ) of a gas-insulated switchboard system, in which the connecting sleeve ( $M$ ) is of an insulating, elastic material ( $I$ ) and is in the form of a tube, characterized in thatwherein the connecting sleeve ( $M$ ) has an outer, electrically conductive surface ( $OA$ ) that is grounded, and an inner, electrically conductive surface ( $OI$ ) to which the voltage potential of the bus bar ( $S$ ) is applied; and in that the connecting sleeve ( $M$ ) has a coupling electrode ( $KE$ ) that is imbedded in the insulating material ( $I$ ).
7. (Currently Amended) Gas-insulated switchboard system, in particular a gas-insulated medium-voltage switchboard system, with at least two switchboard sections ( $F1, F2$ ) that are connected to one another through a bus bar connection ( $SK$ ) that incorporates a connecting sleeve ( $M$ ), the connecting sleeve ( $M$ ) being of an insulating, elastic material ( $I$ ) and being in the form of a tube, characterized in thatwherein the connecting sleeve ( $M$ ) has an outer, electrically conductive surface ( $OA$ ) that is grounded, and an inner, electrically conductive surface ( $OI$ ) to which the voltage potential of the bus bar

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(S) is applied; and in that the connecting sleeve (M) has a coupling electrode (KE) that is imbedded in the insulating material (I).